



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ACCREDITATION, CERTIFICATE AND CREDENTIAL OPTIONS

Compiled by the **Office for Children**
Community Education and Provider Services
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CENTER ACCREDITATION

NAEYC Accreditation

NAEYC offers a four step process to achieve accreditation for a specific center. The four steps are designed to ensure that the program meets each of the ten Early Childhood Program Standards which represent NAEYC's definition of excellence for an early childhood program. The steps are: Step 1-Enrolling in Self Study; Step 2-Becoming the Applicant; Step 3-Becoming a Candidate; and Step 4-Meeting the Program Standards.

The ten Accreditation Criteria areas are: Interactions among Teachers and Children; Curriculum; Relationships among Teachers and Families; Staff Qualifications and Professional Development; Administration; Staffing; Physical Environment; Health and Safety; Nutrition and Food Services; and Evaluation. The steps and requirements help guide the process, help programs prepare for each step and make sure the crucial components of program quality are in place.

A NAEYC Accreditation is effective for five years. For a center with 60 or fewer children, the cost for the self study material is \$435.00, Notification of Intent is \$200.00, and the On-site Visit is \$650.00. Total cost is approximately \$1285.00.

PROVIDER ACCREDITATION

National Association for Family Child Care

For family child care providers-An accreditation signifies to parents that a high standard of quality family child care is offered. NAFCC has developed a self-study procedure to help providers assess their program and work towards earning a nation wide recognized accreditation. A provider must meet certain requirements before she/he are eligible to begin the process.

The six self study areas in a NAFCC accreditation are: Relationships, The Environment, Activities, Developmental Learning Goals, Safety and Health, Professional and Business Practices.

Providers submit an application with half payment (\$247.50) and receive the self study packet. Ninety (90) hours of education or training is required within three years prior to the observation visit. When ready, the provider submits the "Request for Observation" form with the 2nd half-payment (\$247.50). A provider completes a formal self-evaluation and distributes surveys to all parents. A NAFCC-trained observer visits for the day to document the program, review records, and conduct an interview with the provider. The completed observation is sent to NAFCC's Accreditation Commission who reviews the information and observation. If the Parent Surveys have generally positive responses, the starred standards and at least 90% of the remaining standards are marked "Fully Met", NAFCC will award accreditation for three years. For more specific information, visit the website, www.nafcc.org or call (801) 268-9507.

FAMILY OR CENTER BASED ACCREDITATION

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

For family child care providers and center based staff, The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a nationally recognized credential which has been awarded to over 150,000 early childhood professionals since its inception in 1971. The CDA program is administered through the Council for Professional Recognition. The credential is awarded to candidates that can demonstrate competence in working with children, birth through 5 years of age. Candidates can choose to be credentialed in one of the following settings – Center-based Preschool, Center-based Infant/Toddler, or Family Child Care. The CDA Competency Standards are the core of the CDA program. These standards are statements of the skills needed to be a competent caregiver and they encompass all areas of child development as well as the ability to work with families, be an effective program manager and professional in the field of early childhood.

Candidates document their competence in these areas by being observed as they work with young children, receiving feedback from parents in the form of a questionnaire, compiling a Professional Resource File, through an oral interview, and by completing an Early Childhood Studies Review exam. One hundred twenty (120) hours of child care education is required before a candidate can apply for assessment. This education must be in a variety of early childhood topics covering eight content areas set forth by the Council for Professional Recognition. Once a candidate completes all documentation requirements, it is reviewed by the Council and a decision is made whether to issue the Credential.

The initial Credential is valid for three years and may be renewed for the same setting and age endorsement for a five-year period. The cost to apply for this credential is \$325. To receive an application, call (800) 224-8103. For additional information, visit the website, www.cdacouncil.org.

NOVA Infant and Toddler Care Career Studies Certificate

The Infant and Toddler Care Career Studies certification program is a partnership between the Office for Children and the Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. This particular program is specifically for family child care providers who meet the college criteria for admission. Classes are held on Saturdays. The course credits are transferable and can be applied to an Associate Degree at the college. Earning this certificate takes four semesters and one summer session to complete. The certificate focuses on child development and early childhood practices through in-depth studies of these topics, and specifically, inclusive learning environments. The tuition is paid via the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program sponsored by Virginia Department of Social Services. The OFC provides the study materials and books for the providers in the certificate program. For additional information, visit the websites, www.nvcc.edu and childcare.scholarship@nvcc.edu or <http://www.dss.state.va.us/facility/scholarship.html>

NOVA School-Age Child Care Career Studies Certificate

For both home and center based providers, the School-Age Child Care Career Studies Certificate is designed for providers working with or seeking to work in programs serving children from Kindergarten through elementary school-age. These programs would include before and after school programs, extended day programs and summer out-of-school programs. This can be completed going to school full time, in one year equaling 21 semester hours. The certificate includes studies in child development, curriculum, behavior management, exceptional children and communication skills and focuses specifically on school-age children. Cost for the certificate is approximately \$2250.00 with tuition, books and parking cost included.

Individuals can find out more information about scholarships opportunities at childcare.scholarship@nvcc.edu or <http://www.dss.state.va.us/facility/scholarship.html>. For additional information about this certificate, visit the website www.nvcc.edu for general information or www.nvcc.edu/catalog/cat2005/programs under Early Childhood Development for more specific course information.

NOVA Early Childhood Development Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS)

For both home and center based providers, the Early Childhood Development AAS degree is designed for providers who are working with children and want to update and enhance their skills and competencies. It is also designed to develop a solid foundation in early childhood knowledge for the individual who wants to become involved in the care and direction of young children. This would include family child care, daycare and child development settings. This degree can be completed in two years equaling 67 semester hours. The degree includes studies in child development, math, science, writing, behavior management, health, music and movement, communication and more.

Cost for the certificate is approximately \$7,000.00 with tuition, books and parking. Individuals can find more information about scholarships opportunities at childcare.scholarship@nvcc.edu or <http://www.dss.state.va.us/facility/scholarship.html>. For additional information about this certificate, visit the website www.nvcc.edu for general information or www.nvcc.edu/catalog/cat2005/programs under Early Childhood Development for more specific course information.

School Readiness Collaborative, School Readiness Certificate

This grant funded certificate program will be available to child care providers, home or center based, in Fairfax County through the Institute for Early Learning beginning in June 2006 after being piloted with a group of providers in four elementary school neighborhoods. The certificate training will offer 45 hours of training on topics such as planning early learning programs to promote school readiness, documenting child's progress and growth, developing professional portfolios to track training and professional growth, setting up an enriching learning environment, helping children make smooth transition to kindergarten, and involving parents in their child's learning.

Additional Institute training in selected core and elective courses will also be included. During the grant period a bonus award will be available to participants who complete the full certificate program. For additional information, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/childcare.src.html.

National Child Care Association-CCP Credential

For both home and center based providers, The Certified Childcare Professional credential authenticates teaching skills and professionalism. This credential is particularly valuable for teachers who have not completed a college degree or whose degree is in another field. You need a high school degree or the equivalent to be a part of the program. The credential requires 180 hours of continuing education credit by attending conferences, taking courses or using the special video lesson series. A provider would need 720 hours of experience in the classroom. A portfolio is used to demonstrate knowledge about young children and how they learn. Each provider has a mentor and is observed by a more experienced teacher. The final step is to successfully complete the exam. The full fee for the CCP is \$495.00 and this fee includes the cost of the mentor.